



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - December 11, 2003

- ***In the West***, heavy rain and snow showers continue to overspread ***California***, aiding pastures and winter grains and boosting high-elevation snow packs, but causing local flooding. Unsettled weather also persists in the ***Pacific Northwest***, but drought areas across the ***Intermountain West*** and ***Southwest*** remain mostly dry.
- ***On the Plains***, winter wheat areas from ***northern Oklahoma to Nebraska*** continue to benefit from recent topsoil moisture improvements related to Tuesday's snow storm. Extremely dry conditions persist, however, on the ***southernmost High Plains***, including much of ***northern and western Texas***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, cold, breezy weather prevails in the wake of yesterday's rain and snow. Very wet conditions persist in winter wheat areas from the ***middle Mississippi Valley to the eastern Corn Belt***, where recent rainfall totaled 1 to 3 inches.
- ***In the South***, locally heavy showers are departing the ***southern Mid-Atlantic region***, while cool, dry weather prevails elsewhere. Pastures and winter grains across the ***South*** are benefiting from recent soil moisture improvements.

Outlook: Later today, locally heavy rain will yield to windy, mostly dry conditions in the ***Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern States***, although snow showers will linger downwind of the ***Great Lakes***. Meanwhile, a Pacific storm system will cross the ***Rio Grande Valley*** into ***western Gulf Coast region***, triggering rain and snow in the ***Southwest*** and ***central and southern portions of the Rockies and Plains***. Additional Pacific storminess will maintain the threat of locally heavy rain and mountain snow in the ***Pacific Northwest*** and ***northern Rockies***. By week's end, another significant winter storm may affect much of the ***eastern U.S.*** The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for December 16-20 calls for a continuation of wet, stormy conditions along the ***East Coast***, while drier-than-normal weather is expected in a broad swath from the ***Southwest to the northern Plains and upper Midwest***. Above-normal temperatures are likely across most of the ***North*** and ***West***, while cooler-than-normal weather is forecast in the ***Southeast***.

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Web Site: <http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf/AgWxHighlights/TODAYSWX.PDF>